Plan is yet to be finalised, it is not possible to indicate the outlay earmarked for development of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Section of N.H. No. 5 during VIII Plan period. However, four-laning of this stretch has been projected to the World Bank for assistance under the proposed Second National Highway Loan. Negotiations for the loan have been completed, but the World Bank is yet to sign the loan. As such, it is too early to say when the work of four-laning will commence and be completed.

Lifting of Ban on Foreign Shipping Lines

2225. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ban on foreign shipping lines operating coastal cargo trade in the country has been lifted; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) With a view to attract transhipment container traffic in the Indian Ports, a decision has been taken to temporarily relax the coasting trade restriction in favour of those foreign lines who bring main line container vessels to Ports in India and take export containers from India to their destinations without transhipment.

Appointment of Conductors

2226. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is surplus staff with D.T.C. in Driver and Conductor cadres;

(b) if so, the number of such surplus staff in each cadre, separately, and what arrangement has been made by the DTC to absorb surplus staff;

(c) if not, the extent of shortage in each cadre and what arrangement has been made to make up the shortage;

(d) whether Conductors are proposed to be deployed by the DTC on the proposed 3000 buses which are being permitted to ply in Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and what arrangement Government have made to absorb 1775 candidates who are awaiting their appointment since 1986 in Conductor cadre in DTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) As per current norms, DTC have a surplus staff of 2336 employees in the category of conductors. These norms are under review.

(c) As on 1-2-1992, 254 drivers were short. This shortage cannot be made up as all further recruitments have been banned in Delhi Transport Corporation.

(d) and (e) It has been decided to provide as many surplus staff as are required by the Delhi Administration to assist them in the implementation of the scheme of grant of stage carriage permits to 3000 buses in Delhi.

(f) The empanelled candidates who are awaiting their appointment in conductors' cadre cannot be absorbed in DTC till the vacancies arise in the cadre and the ban on recruitment lifted.

Express Highways

2227. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified 10,000 Kms. of highways to be earmarked for 'express highways'; and

(b) if so, what are the stretches of highways identified in Andhra Pradesh for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 1988, the Government had made broad identification of a probable Expressway network for the country of about 10,000 Kms. length, subject to feasibility studies etc. being conducted in due course. The routes in this plan passing through